

A NEW KOREAN MITE

(ACARINA, CAECULIDAE)

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In a small collection of mites received by the senior author from Korea there was an apparently undescribed rake-legged mite of the genus *Caeculus*. This mite is named after Mr. Ted Tibbetts, who collected this species from several localities in Korea. The types will be deposited in the University of Utah Acarina collection.

***Caeculus tibbettsi* sp. nov.**

Diagnosis.—Propodosomal plate projects over the gnathosoma; metapodosomal plate with 6 setae in a 2-2-2 sequence; leg I composed of 7 segments and slightly shorter than the body; trochanter I with 2 setae on the inner edge, 2 dorsal setae, and 2 small setae on the outer border; basifemur and telofemur I each with 1 large blunt spine on their inner border.

Description.—This animal is of medium size, and has a color of deep brown. The propodosomal plate is notched near the tip, narrowed near the attachment of legs I, projects over the gnathosoma, and covers the gnathosomal tubercles from above. This plate has 2 small setae in the notched areas on the anterior edge. A small seta is also found anterior to the eyes. Median metapodosomal plate has 6 spatulate setae in a 2-2-2 sequence. The left and right lateral metapodosomal plates each have 3 spatulate setae in a 1-1-1 sequence and 2 slitlike stigmata. The anterior transverse opisthosomal plate has 5 setae in a more or less straight line. There are 5 setae in a curved line on the posterior transverse opisthosomal plate.

Legs.—Leg 1 is longer than any other leg, but is slightly shorter than the body. Trochanter I has 2 large clavate setae located on tubercles on the inner edge, 2 dorsal clavate setae, and 2 small setae on the outer-ventral border. Basifemur and telofemur I each has 1 long blunt spine on their inner border. These spines are nearly as long as the segments on which they are located. Genua I has 2 long, blunt spines on the inner edge, but the posterior one is the shorter. Tibia I has 2 long spines and 1 short spine on the inner edge. The posterior tibial spine is about one-half the length of the other spines and is pointed forward. Tarsus I has 4 short, sharp spines on the inner edge terminating in a single claw.

Measurements of the holotype are: Length of body, 1.13 mm., width, .68 mm., length of leg I, without the coxa, 1.05 mm. Three other adult specimens have the following measurements: Length, 1.20, 1.12, 1.07 mm.; distance between eyes, .38, .32, .21 mm.; length of leg I, 1.05, .99, .92 mm.

Discussion.—Specimens are available from three localities in Korea. Although there are apparent differences between individuals, all specimens are believed to represent only one species. For example, one specimen from Amsa lacks the notched propodosomal plate, but it agrees within the known limits of individual variation in other details.

The holotype and 1 paratype were taken from under stones at Seoul, Korea, May 27, 1953 by Ted Tibbetts. Additional specimens, including 2 immatures, were taken at Seoul, May 27, 1953; 2 immature specimens were collected 8 miles S.E. Seoul, July 23, 1953; 1 specimen was found in moss and lichens at Osan, Feb. 17, 1953; and 1 specimen from cedar and oak litter at Amsa, August 15, 1953.

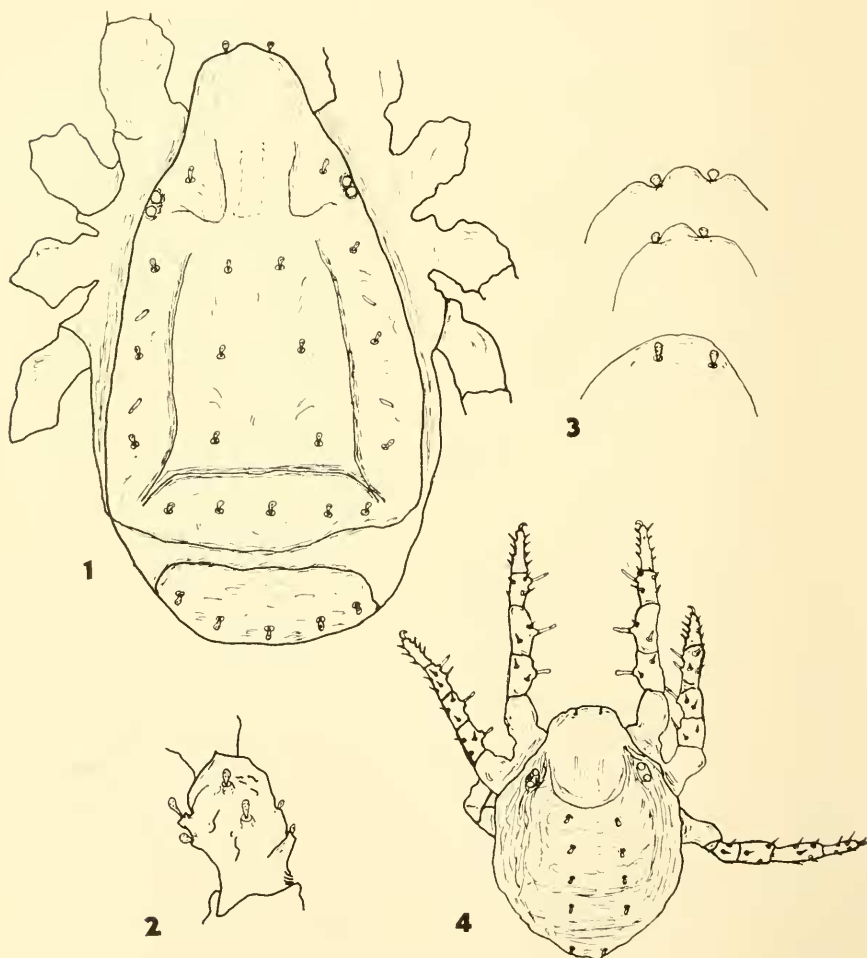


Fig. 1, Dorsal view of adult, *Cacculus tibbettsi* n. sp.; fig. 2, dorsal view of right trochanter I.; fig. 3, variation in the anterior edge of the propodosomal plate; fig. 4, dorsal view of larva.